A LETTER TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD ANSON.

Written in the Year 1759.

[Price One Shilling and Six-pence.]

SOME

PROPOSALS

FOR STRENGTHENING OUR

NAVAL INSTITUTIONS;

IN A

LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD ANSON,

First Lord Commiſſioner for executing the Office of
LORD HIGH ADMIRAL.

BY A SEA OFFICER.

J'appelle beau Projet, un Projet dont toutes les Parties ont entr'elles une Correſpondence etroite et neceſſaire. *Maxime de Roy de Pruſſie.*

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD ANSON.

MY LORD,

IT is your happineſs to be placed at the head of maritime affairs in this country, when ſhe has diſplayed a greater navy, and that to greater advantage, than ever any other nation has yet beheld; and though, undoubtedly, there is much owing to the ſtrength of her interior conſtitution, which is capable of furniſhing the

 materials,

materials, as well as ſome obligations to the well-digeſted naval inſtitutions under the Duke of York; yet it muſt ever remain a great honour to your lordſhip, to have arranged the whole ſo advantageouſly. At the ſame time it is worth conſidering, whether much of our excellence is not comparative, ariſing from the weakneſs, effeminacy, pride, and folly of our enemies, like the power of Sweden before Peter the Great, and that of France before William the Third.

The balance of power at land, which has diſtracted Europe for ſome time paſt, appears to be now thoroughly underſtood; but a balance at ſea ſeems no leſs neceſſary to be maintained in a general ſyſtem, where commerce forms the riches and funds of every ſtate. No town at preſent

can

can become opulent, without enjoying a communication with a ſea, either immediately, or by being connected with others that poſſeſs this advantage: every ſuch town is from thence liable, directly or indirectly, to the influence of a naval power: and therefore we may expect, when Europe comes to be freed from the deſolation of war, and undiſturbed by the jealouſy of France, that this naval balance will alſo be underſtood and determined. Our powerful colonies, multiplying like the children of Iſrael, over a land flowing with milk and honey, appear the only rational ſupport againſt any effectual attempt to counterbalance our ſuperiority; yet theſe advantages cannot entirely prevent the effects of a general confederacy. They lie at an immenſe diſtance, and from thence become ſubject to a corrupt, tedious, and

wicked adminiſtration of juſtice, which naturally produce all the changes and revolutions incident to human governments. The principal reaſon why our wars have proved ſo ſucceſsful, ſeems to ariſe from the vaſt extent of ſea-coaſt for furniſhing ſeamen, and the method in which our enemies have attacked: they have made war without endeavouring to cut off our reſources, like draining a lake, without diverting the rivulets that ſupply it. In this light, by turning the attention of the enemy, our German war may be excuſed, eſpecially as no other has been neglected by it; but, when other nations ſhall form proper alliances, and exert their ſtrength under enterpriſing officers, either to affect our commerce, or to attempt the capital, our diſtreſſes muſt multiply, in proportion to the extent of our

trade,

trade, and the defenceleſs ſtate of a free country. It is a received opinion, that none of the nations in Europe can equip a fleet, in their preſent ſituation, ſufficient to diſturb us; nor the whole united (a thought more extravagant than the junction of the Jews) compoſe a navy ſo potent as our own. Others place a vaſt dependance on the ſuperiority of Britiſh ſeamen over thoſe of every other nation. That ſuch opinions are without ſufficient foundation to ſupport this country, in the progreſs of things, will appear evident to thoſe, who conſider the powerful navy, on the beſt models, raiſed by Colbert in the ſhort ſpace of fifteen years; and ſurely France is capable of the ſame exertion at preſent. Materials can be introduced every where for money, and this could not be wanting, ſince her yearly revenue, without loan or anti-

cipation,

cipation, is greatly encreaſed. If that nation ſhould once regard the advice of her ſage counſellor, Monteſquieu, " To correct the manner of levying " her finances, confine her views " within a natural barrier, and expend " her millions on campaigns in the " ocean, under regular, practical ſea- " men, inſtead of waſting them in " endleſs, bewildered German poli- " tics, which, excepting the war of " Adolphus, have, on every occaſion, " turned out different to all human " foreſight."

That men can be found in France there is no doubt, and that theſe men can ſpeedily be trained to naval engagements, under proper officers, though perfect landmen, is evident to every ſeaman of the meaneſt capacity, or ſmalleſt experience. This of procuring ſuch officers ſeems their greateſt

greateſt difficulty; but, when the attention of a nation is directed to any one point, every difficulty is ſoon overcome: three ſhips might train a number ſufficient for a navy. The ſuperiority of one ſet of men over a like number from a different country, by education, fame, diſcipline, and experience, are infinite and amazing! Sylla being aſked, after he had retired to his villa on the Tyber, what defence he had retained againſt the bloody reſentment of his enemies, anſwered, The ſhield which he bore at the battle of Orchomene, and the ſpear, wherewith he mounted the walls of Athens: he had a name, and that was ſufficient. Nevertheleſs, between the intrinſic abilities of one ſet of men and another, the difference is very ſmall. Mankind require only a ſtandard to convince them, ſuch and ſuch powers are attainable, and

they ſoon work up to it. Who durſt have foretold, in the days of Cimon,* that Macedon would one day conquer Athens, enſlave Greece, and even extend her dominions beyond thoſe of the Great King, ſince ſo extreme was the contempt for the people of Macedon about this particular period, that the Grecians even held them unworthy of ſerving as ſlaves! A Dutchman would have liſtened with equal indignation to have been told, towards the middle of the laſt century, that France would, in thirty years, become a commercial kingdom: an event that ſeemed impoſſible even to the genius of a Richlieu. In what a deſpicable light were the Ruſſians beheld before Peter the Great? Yet we

* This great officer acted both by ſea and land, with equal advantage to his country.

we have lately ſeen the troops of that nation, on a fair deciſion, prove themſelves ſuperior to any in Europe.* The whole hiſtory of war ſeems calculated to prove, how much is dependant on one man, capable of infuſing the ſpirit I am ſpeaking of. Hannibal is the moſt ſtriking inſtance, who projected an enterprize more arduous than the conqueſt of Britain; and, by the mere force of his genius, he raiſed, connected, conducted, and maintained, a numerous army of various nations, under every difficulty, until he had ſhaken, to the very foundations, the ſtrongeſt political fabric this world ever beheld. Epaminondas is a ſecond proof, who raiſed the moſt inconſiderable to the moſt reſpectable people of Greece. When Cæſar arrived at the army, which Mithridates

* Battle of Frankfort.

brought to his aſſiſtance in Egypt, then trembling and deſponding, he did not alter the diſpoſition, but gave confidence to the troops, and led them directly to victory. So, when the unlucky bullet pierced the breaſt of Marſhal Turenne, ready to ſeize on his enemy, the ſame troops were left in the ſame ſituation, yet they remained unable to act, like a body deprived of the ſoul which gave it motion. From the whole, I would conclude, that it is even within the bounds of probability, that ſingle ſtates of Europe, conducted on patriotic principles, may reach our extent of naval power, eſpecially as we muſt encreaſe our ſoldiery, as they encreaſe their ſhips; and the wiſe projectors of the militia ſeemed ſenſible of this. But, when it ſhall become the intereſt of many kingdoms to unite, the at-

tempt will be eaſy. In the mean time, it becomes us to ſtrengthen our naval inſtitutions, by every means in our power, without ſurcharging the expence. Dr. Campbell ſays, "Nothing is a greater hindrance to improvements of every kind, than the "notion that they are extremely "difficult, or rather impracticable, "except the contrary fancy, that perfection is already attained, or that "it is vanity to think of carrying "things further." The many improvements in building, which have lately been made within your lordſhip's adminiſtration, may convince us how much is ſtill wanting, ſince we have been able to borrow ſo many things from an * enemy of little

 experience.

* We have made moſt of our late improvements, in the conſtruction of our ſhips, from the French models.

experience. It is with that view I humbly offer to lay the following propoſals before your lordſhip, ſufficiently convinced of the folly of projectors, unleſs corrected by a proper experience, at the ſame time confident, that the real ſtrength of ſhips of war, or a connected marine, is no where thoroughly underſtood; and therefore, in that ſituation, the ſlighteſt hint may prove ſerviceable, by turning your lordſhip's thoughts on this ſubject. It was in ſearch of the philoſopher's ſtone, that Homberg and Boyle made the beſt of their diſcoveries: the idea of perfection is often the miſtreſs that leads us on to improvement.

I believe it will be allowed, without a philoſophic diſcuſſion, that education forms the great difference between mankind; and, though we muſt admit there is ſomething

thing peculiar to each climate, yet education is equally improving to all, like culture to land: ſome may require more, ſome leſs; but, in general, it is poſſible, with pains and labour, to work almoſt every ſpot to the ſame perfection. For this reaſon, the wiſeſt legiſlators have had a primary and peculiar attention to this part of their inſtitutions, as the ground work of the whole. So far I am only conſidering a proper education, as conducive to the ſtrength of the ſtate; but, when we conſider it reſpecting ſea-officers, as particularly conducive to the happineſs of every individual, it will afford an additional motive for the following ſcheme.

After premiſing ſo much, I believe it is only neceſſary, by way of contraſt, that your lordſhip ſhould caſt an eye on the education of youth in

the navy, under your direction, to be ſenſible ſomething is wanting on that head, ſince they remain without any eſtabliſhment for attaining thoſe parts of knowledge, which are indiſpenſably neceſſary for a good officer. It is a fluent remark, that we are the moſt ignorant of any ſet of men of equal numbers; and from this obſervation has proceeded that common rule of ſending a ſon to ſea, when he appears unfit for any thing elſe. A conſtant rotation, and faithful experience, will often produce wonderful effects in buſineſs; like the blind man of Staffordſhire, who could tell the hour of the day by having, for ſome time before, conſtantly counted the clock; and, no doubt, we have accompliſhed ſurpriſing feats at ſea. I do not at all mean to place theory in competition with practice: they

they will be both connected, ſo as to aid each other. However, if gentlemen would only conſider, that theory is no more than *a ſyſtem of rules drawn from infinite practice*, they would hardly deſpiſe it ſo much. When things are got into a certain circle, they often continue ſo for ages; otherwiſe it would appear wonderful, when ſo many learned and great men have been riſing in every corner of Europe, that, amidſt the multitude of our claſs, where ſtudy is pointed out as the only recreation, we ſhould not be able to produce two, or at moſt three, worthy of that denomination. At the ſame time, it is plain, that no profeſſion whatever requires a greater number of accompliſhments, as immediately dependant on it, (for I would willingly blot out of this paper every thing that is in the leaſt viſionary) and likewiſe that

thoſe acquirements may be eaſily taught and attained on board of ſhips, under obvious regulations.

The parts of knowledge referred to, without extravagance, may be reduced to the following heads:

Firſt, The Latin, French, and Spaniſh languages, moral philoſophy and geography.

Secondly, Geometry, aſtronomy, algebra, mechanics in every branch, drawing, ſtaticks, optics, and experimental philoſophy.

Thirdly, Engineering, and the uſe of arms, and military exerciſes in the moſt extenſive conception.

There

There are many other qualifications that enter naturally into our profeſſion, ſuch as naval architecture, a competent knowledge of the fundamental laws of our conſtitution, particularly the civil law, and thoſe acts and treaties relative to naval affairs and commerce: alſo political and natural hiſtory; nay phyſic, as far as it relates to diet, air, exerciſe, and cloathing, under different climates, in order to preſerve the ~~lives~~ health of the ſeamen. But I ſhall omit theſe, by ſuppoſing, when once an officer has attained a proper foundation, he will naturally proceed to acquire thoſe parts of knowledge he finds uſeful to himſelf. And the truth is, I can find no claſs capable of teaching them, without deviating too much from the ways of ſimplicity and cuſtom, that ſovereign arbitreſs of all things. Be-

ſides, I am already afraid I may have ſtartled ſome perſons, by too long an enumeration, and therefore I beg leave to ſay a word or two, to prove the importance of each article.

As to Latin, it is the foundation of both the other languages, and much of our own; particularly technical terms are derived from it. Gentlemens ſons are commonly pretty far advanced in this article before they go to ſea; and it is from the ridicule it is held in, as well as the want of a little aſſiſtance to carry them through, that they do not in general become perfect. It is a neceſſary qualification to enjoy the company of a gentlemen, and methinks it were even cruel to deprive a man, living in the latter ages of the world, and in a manner cut off by his profeſſion, from many other

other enjoyments in life, of profiting from whatever is excellent, which his predeceſſors have produced; or of the pleaſures of viewing, in their native force and ſimpliçity, thoſe flowers of ſcience, which mankind have been collecting from that time to this.

The French is now the univerſal language of Europe, and unfortunately that nation has engroſſed the whole military art into her own books, by which ſhe has extended her terms into every corner of the globe. The probability of continual diſputes with ſuch a rival, the advantage of converſation in the ports we enter, the power of examining priſoners, and gaining intelligence, are evident; beſides the number of excellent authors, who have wrote in that lan-

guage, as well in France, as from all the northern countries.

Spaniſh is a language underſtood univerſally on the coaſts of Aſia, Africa and America: more uſeful to a ſeaman than the other two. The probability of a war with a power, ſo interwoven with our colonies, whoſe commerce is encreaſing, and whoſe dominions demand a naval power to connect them; the intimate intercourſe in times of peace, are ſtriking reaſons; beſides, whoever thoroughly comprehends the Latin and Spaniſh, can eaſily underſtand, and ſoon learn to ſpeak both Portugueſe and Italian.

I come now, my Lord, to moral philoſophy; and, though it is ſomething new, and not in much practice with us, yet I hope it will not be thought

thought unneceſſary to be taught, even as a ſcience, which will confirm to the mind that dignity of conduct, which can alone ſecure our own happineſs, ~~and will ſhew~~ while it ſhews us the beautiful order of mutual ſubjection, the neceſſity of obedience, and the charms of humanity: in ſhort, how to form a juſt conception of things, both within and without us.

The laſt under this head is geography. It would appear almoſt ridiculous to inſiſt on this article with a rational creature, placed on a ſpot of earth, to induce him to know its properties; but to a perſon literally condemned to roam round the globe, changing ſituations every hour, the neceſſity is too obvious to be enlarged upon.

Under

Under the ſecond claſs is geometry, by which we determine our poſition; aſtronomy, as the ſweeteſt amuſement, and ſureſt guide; algebra, being the abridgment of theſe calculations; mechanics, as we live in a machine, governed, impelled, and directed by her laws; Drawing, for delineating draughts of every foreign port we enter; alſo plans for attack or defence, likewiſe unknown coaſts or territories; hydroſtatics, becauſe we ſwim on water; optics, for her own ſake, and to acquire a thorough knowledge of the inſtruments we uſe; and, laſtly, experimental philoſophy, as the baſis of the whole.

The third diviſion contains gunnery, engineering, and the military exerciſes: parts that fall more immediately under our attention, as ſerving

ing on board ſhips of war; yet I muſt obſerve to your lordſhip, with concern, that theſe, of all the foregoing, are the fartheſt from our knowledge: the very form of exerciſe for great guns and ſmall arms would provoke laughter from the graveſt face. The men, before they have been in action, are not in the leaſt inſtructed in the uſe of the great guns: their whole knowledge conſiſts in pronouncing, with a matchleſs impudence, the word *Done*, to words of command, that ſhould not be performed in the manner of reſponſes; and, as to firing of ſmall arms in vollies, with a view to engagements on board ſhips of war, it is a mere *feu de joye*. The uſe of men quartered to ſmall arms muſt ever be to fire as markſmen, where any living object preſents, without changing poſition; and, if no ſuch object preſents, they are then to fire at the port-holes, where

it is impoſſible to miſs. But here I beg leave to obſerve, our powder is bad, the allotted quantity is too great, the rammers for the great guns are ill contrived, wooden rammers for the ſmall arms are improper, our muſkets are too long, and leaden muſket bullets are far inferior to iron, either for length of carriage, or penetrating a ſubſtance. Beſides theſe, there are an infinite number of improvements to be made on the preſent eſtabliſhment of naval attack and defence; and why ſeamen cannot be taught the principal parts of military exerciſe, reduced to a ſyſtem, and diſciplined accordingly, ready to act in battalia, either for annoying an enemy on ſhore, or the defence of their country, ſuppoſing the enemy ſhould ever eſcape our fleets and land, is a thought worthy of your lordſhip. This I am confident in, that no man

Wrong as to length of carriage

can

can give a reaſon to the contrary. All the diſorder incident to ſeamen, and connected with their character, ſprings from the ignorance of their officers, who are obliged to join in the jeſt, leſt it turn to their own diſgrace. We are all ſenſible, what wonders they have performed in the Eaſt Indies, under the regulations of Capt. Speke; but I have known ſome captains of bombs declare, they could not give their opinions, whether ſuch or ſuch a place might be bombarded or not: for they neither knew how to determine diſtance, or how far a bomb would carry with a probability of execution, or any thing concerning the buſineſs their veſſel was deſtined to perform—*Hinc illæ lachrimæ!* For ſurely no man will venture to tell your lordſhip, who is ſo converſant in thoſe matters, that the raweſt

youth, from the loweſt original, ſhall become an officer of marines, capable of forming people of all caſts into regular ſoldiers; and that officers of the navy, poſſeſſed of the ſame means, cannot attain that knowledge, or the power of diſciplining ſeamen, ſecured againſt luxury, and already inured to every fatigue, and every danger: the very eſſence of a ſoldier. Our great misfortune ſeems to lie, firſt, in conceiving we have no uſe for a regular military exerciſe: whereas, in truth, the great advantage of a powerful marine muſt ever lie, in acting by ſurpriſe, and ſcouring whole coaſts. In which caſe, military diſcipline is ſo eſſential, that it is impoſſible for a man of real enterprize ever to loſe the idea of it for a moment. Secondly, we have no perſon properly appointed to teach thoſe exerciſes: the gunner

is

is often the man in the ſhip, who preciſely knows the leaſt about a gun; and the maſter at arms, whoſe duty it is to preſerve order and regularity, and to diſcipline the ſeamen to the uſe of ſmall arms, is generally the moſt abandoned character on board. Now, it is abſolutely neceſſary, for every one of theſe important purpoſes, that he ſhould be eſtabliſhed on a reſpectable footing, as a gentleman, like the adjutant on ſhore; but, if the two claſſes of ſailors and marines were more fully incorporated, ſo that the officers of marines might be appointed from midſhipmen, after five years ſervice, and thoſe again admitted to be lieutenants of the ſhip, who ſhould ſometimes be preferred to a company of marines, and from thence to captains of ſhips of war, the difficulty would entirely vaniſh, and the two

ſervices would mutually ſtrengthen each other.

Incitement, from the hopes of promotion, is the only true ſpirit that can actuate an inferior: when that ceaſes, the other ſinks. I admire the youth,* who firſt demanded from the general, whether it would ſtop his preferment, before he would permit his ſhattered arm to be diſſevered. Now it is certain, there is not a ſufficient number of ſuperior offices as a vent for the number of our midſhipmen, which cauſes many to ſink ſo low; and this would give a general ſpring to the whole ſervice, by propoſing rewards, and exciting emulation.

There is only one or two, and thoſe trivial objections further, which I beg leave to obviate, before I enter on

* Lieut. Macleane, who was afterwards killed, a major, in Germany.

on the propoſed ſcheme: and theſe are the difficulties ſome people may raiſe againſt the expence, and the method propoſed for providing proper conveniencies for the maſters and the young gentlemen. As to the firſt, though I am ſenſible the ſtate of our finances will bear no conſiderable charge, yet this is quite a trifle, conſidered in a national view, as a national advantage, which will return in the general circle; and, as to the ſecond, there will not be required ſo great alterations as may at firſt appear: for chaplains and ſchool-maſters have at preſent an appointed place: they are not now propoſed to be in the ſame ſhip; and the deſire for ſtudy grows ſo impetuous, after a ſhort commencement, as a recreation from the duty of the ſhip, to fill up the tedious void, that even youth, on the ſlighteſt encouragement,

run

run to it for relief: therefore the conveniencies for the youth need not be great. I have known many a young gentleman learn navigation upon a cheſt, on his knees, and ſometimes on the deck, as it were in ſpite:

Upon uneaſy pallets ſtretching them,
Rock'd in the cradle of th' imperious ſurge,

But ſtill carried forward by the ſtronger impulſe. It may be further alledged, that the academy at Portſmouth is intended for all the above purpoſes. To which I anſwer, it does not fulfil any one of them. Firſt, becauſe young gentlemen cannot continue long enough to complete their ſtudies, without loſing much time in the practical experience of their profeſſion. Boys muſt go to ſea about fourteen,* ſince

* It is a remark, that no man ever became a thorough-paced ſeaman, who did not go to ſea under twenty.

ſince our changeful buſineſs wears us ſo faſt; and, at that age, we ſeldom retain, much leſs complete, our acquirements, unleſs we have maſters to call us regularly to ſtudy, which is, indeed, the principal matter. Secondly, this ſcheme is intended for the improvement of officers, as well as youth. Upon the whole, I ſubmit the propoſal to your lordſhip's ſuperior judgment.

SCHEME.

Firſt, That every other ſhip in commiſſion, exceeding thirty guns, ſhall carry a chaplain to ſea, whoſe appointment ſhall be from eighty to two hundred pounds *per ann.* adapted to the rate.

Secondly, That it ſhall be the duty of the ſaid chaplain, beſides perform-

ing the uſual functions on the ſabbath-day, to teach ſuch youth, as ſhall be recommended to him by the captain, or from the Admiralty, the Latin, French, and Spaniſh languages; alſo geography, and moral philoſophy.

Thirdly, That to every ſhip, carrying a chaplain, as above, there ſhall be furniſhed, at the expence of government, a collection of books and maps neceſſary for the above purpoſes; alſo a complete pair of globes. The whole to be lodged in the cuſtody of the ſaid chaplain.

Fourthly, That the ſaid chaplain ſhall be obliged to lecture, once in the week, to his pupils, on moral philoſophy.

Fifthly,

That every chaplain, who ſhall have performed the above duty, for the ſpace of ſix years, in Europe or North America, or three years and a half in the Eaſt or Weſt Indies, or coaſts of Africa, upon producing a certificate from his commander or commanders, ſhall be entitled, upon his diſcharge, to half-pay, from thirty to ſixty pounds *per annum*, ſubject to be called upon by the Admiralty, to ſerve in ſuch rate as he laſt left: any leſſer time in the Eaſt or Weſt Indies, or coaſt of Africa, to be accounted in the above proportion, towards completing the ſix years required.

That, after the firſt four years of the propoſed eſtabliſhment, no chaplain ſhall be appointed into any of the ſhips exceeding forty guns, without having firſt ſerved in a leſſer rate; but that the whole ſhall be

regularly preferred, according to their merit, without favour or partiality.

That the fund for defraying the above expence ſhall ariſe from ten pounds *per annum*, to be paid by every perſon who ſhall be ſo taught, and by appropriating the whole of the monies allowed for chaplains, which at preſent amounts to about fifteen thouſand pounds *per annum*, whereas the real ſum earned is not five thouſand pounds, and the ſum paid near eight thouſand pounds; the three thouſand difference being given by commanding officers to their friends, by way of ſinecure. Now it cannot be ſuppoſed, at preſent, that there are a ſufficient number of competitors qualified, in the commonwealth, to ſupply thoſe offices; and therefore many muſt lie vacant, till the encouragement is known, which will encreaſe the fund ſufficiently in times to come,

come, together with the additional groats * from all the ſmaller veſſels. It is likewiſe propoſed, that the prize-money of the abſent clergyman ſhall be thrown into this fund.

That there ſhall be a committee of chaplains choſen annually from themſelves, who ſhall have full powers, in every place or office, to examine into their accounts.

That every † other ſhip in his

 majeſty's

* There is four-pence *per* month deducted from the wages of every ſeaman for the clergyman, whether there is one employed or not.

† It may appear ſtrange at firſt ſight, that two different articles of education are recommended for different ſhips: the fact is, that the whole cannot be taught at once; and the difficulty vaniſhes when we conſider, that young gentlemen uſually remove from one ſhip to another, by which they may avail themſelves of all thoſe different branches of education.

majeſty's ſervice, exceeding thirty guns, ſhall carry a ſchoolmaſter, whoſe appointments ſhall be from eighty to one hundred pounds *per annum*, proportioned to the rate.

That it ſhall be the duty of the ſaid ſchoolmaſter, beſides reading prayers on the ſabbath-day, to teach ſuch youth, as ſhall be recommended to him from the Admiralty, geometry, aſtronomy, algebra, mechanics, drawing, hydroſtatics, optics, and to exhibit a courſe of natural & experimental philoſophy, twice every month, in the manner which ſhall be preſcribed to him.

That there ſhall be furniſhed to every ſuch ſhip, at the expence of the government, a ſet of inſtruments proper for the above purpoſes, to be lodged with the ſaid ſchoolmaſter.

That

That every ſchoolmaſter, who ſhall have performed the above duty for the ſpace of ſix years, in Europe or North America, or three years and a half in the Eaſt or Weſt Indies, or coaſt of Africa, upon producing a certificate from his commander or commanders, ſhall, upon his diſcharge, be entitled to half-pay, from twenty-five to fifty pounds *per annum*, ſubject to the call of the Admiralty, to ſerve in ſuch rate as he laſt left, any leſſer time in the Eaſt or Weſt Indies, or coaſt of Africa, to be reckoned in the above proportion, towards completing the ſix years required.

That, after the firſt four years of the propoſed eſtabliſhment, no ſchoolmaſter ſhall be appointed into any of his majeſty's ſhips, exceeding forty guns, without having ſerved in a leſſer

leſſer claſs; but that the whole, without favour or partiality, ſhall be preferred, according to their merit.

That the fund for defraying the above expences, ſhall ariſe from ten pounds *per annum*, to be paid by every perſon ſo taught, and from the preſent eſtabliſhment of ſchoolmaſters, together with the appropriation of the prize-money of every boy in the ſhip ſo taught, and that of every abſent officer or ſchoolmaſter, except the chaplain aforeſaid; alſo one ſixteenth* from the prize-money of every captain, which at preſent is enormous, and ſtands the bane of the ſervice; for, when

* Since writing the above, it has been propoſed, in a ſcheme for preventing impreſſing, to give one third of the captain's prize-money to the ſhip's company; and therefore it will bear no further deduction: but the other parts of the fund propoſed are ſufficient.

when once money becomes the ruling paſſion of any martial officer, he is, from that moment, unworthy of his truſt: beſides, ſuch diſproportioned prize-money to their pay has the ſame effect as gaming, by giving a total diſregard to ſmaller ſums, and from thence ending in the diſgrace of the party: "To-day he flouriſheth, and to-morrow is caſt into a cellar." At the ſame time, I am ſenſible how ſmall their appointments are, eſpecially in leſſer rates, or when on half-pay, compared to the ſtandard of their expences: I mean that of any other officer, of equal rank, trouble, and truſt; and, therefore, it may not be improper to recal their ſituation to your lordſhip's reflection.

That the ſchoolmaſters ſhall annually name a committee, to inſpect their accounts, which ſhall have full power,

power, in every place, to inſpect every office relative thereto.

That there ſhall be appointed, in every ſhip of twenty guns, and upwards, an officer, under the name of adjutant, whoſe duty it ſhall be to diſcipline the ſeamen to the perfect uſe of the ſmall arms, both at ſea and on ſhore, under whom ſhall remain the maſter at arms and corporal, as at preſent eſtabliſhed; but for whoſe duty, under his captain, he ſhall be wholly anſwerable.

That the pay of the ſaid adjutant ſhall be from four to ſix ſhillings *per diem*, adapted to the rates; and that he ſhall ſhare prize-money with the lieutenants.

That the ſaid adjutant ſhall, (under the direction of his captain) form three fourths of the officers and men into companies and battalions, regularly

larly diſciplined, as far as poſſible, to act on ſhore againſt horſe and foot.

That the captain ſhall be inſtructed to diſembark the people, wherever he has an opportunity, without retarding the principal ſervice, or running the riſque of deſertion,* and to exerciſe the whole on ſhore, in battalion, when they are immediately to re-embark.

That the ſaid adjutant ſhall underſtand drawing, and the theory of engineering, and teach it, as well as the uſe of arms, to the young gen-

G tlemen,

* This is hardly poſſible under the preſent mode of manning the fleet; and therefore the ſcheme for preventing impreſſing (which was wrote at the ſame time) may be conſidered as neceſſarily connected with this propoſal.

tlemen, recommended to him from the Admiralty, or the captain.

That he ſhall be entitled to half-pay and preferment in the marines.

That his deputy, the maſter at arms, ſhall underſtand fencing, (both back-ſword and ſmall) and ſhall teach it to the young gentlemen.

That a gunner ſhall know ſomething of his buſineſs, and ſtand ready to inſtruct thoſe who apply to him.

That the ſupport of this ſcheme may be recommended from the Admiralty, to every captain, as a tender plant; — that the midſhipmen ſhall be placed at three watches; — that proper places ſhall be appointed, in

in every ſhip, for the conveniency of the chaplain, or ſchoolmaſter, and adjutant; alſo a proper place for teaching the youth ſuch ſciences, as have been propoſed, not ſubject to the controul or reſentment of ignorance.

And, laſtly, that the ſcheme, as above, for incorporating more entirely the officers of the navy and marines, may be carried into execution; in which caſe it is further propoſed, that ſome of each claſs may have the privilege of attending Woolwich Warren, by order of the Admiralty, and of making a campaign or two by land, at the public expence; for nothing can teach us the great art of conciliating tempers, or that ſkill of employing every man as an inſtrument in his proper place, but an extenſive

intercourſe

intercourſe with mankind; nor can any objects ſerve better to enlarge the views of the Land and Sea Officers, than ſeeing the different operations and inventions of both, where, while they obſerve how much is performed by a FEW, they may diſcover how much more is neglected by ALL.

THE END.

ERRATA.

Page 17, line 12. *For* lives *read* health.
18, 17. *For* a gentleman *read* gentlemen.
21, 5. *For* and will ſhew *read* while it ſhews.
25, 19. For *illi* read *illæ*.
29, 13. *For* will not require, *read*, will not be required.